



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

MICHEL C. RENAUD

CASE NO.: AD 6737 US NA

SERIAL NO.: 09/681,934

GROUP ART UNIT: 3752

FILED: 06/28/01

EXAMINER: HOOK, JAMES F.

FOR: VARIABLE STIFFNESS BELLOWS

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action, dated November 30, 2001.
Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 11.

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 4 as follows:

1. (Amended) A flexible tube having a bellows comprising a plurality of convolutes formed in the wall of said tube, said convolutes extending above the top surface of the tube and circumscribing the tube, said convolutes being spaced from one another in the axial direction of the tube,

wherein at least one of said convolutes comprises two opposing bending sections and two restrained elongation sections positioned between the bending sections, and

wherein the two opposing bending sections and the two restrained sections all extend a height above the top surface of the tube, the height of the bending sections above the top surface of the tube being greater than the height of the restrained elongation sections above the top surface of the tube, whereby the bending sections of the flexible tube are more flexible than the restrained sections of the flexible tube.